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19 January 1951

MEMORANDUM FOR THE DIRECTOR

SUBJECT:

Discussion by Gustav
on "German Rearmaments," 13 January, 1951

1. Dr. Hilger's initial point was that the U.S.S.R. opposes German rearmament primarily through Russia's latent fear of Germany. He pointed to their propaganda in Russia and her satellites which all point toward this fear. The condemnation of German rearmament by the "Peace Congress" in Warsaw and by the meeting of satellite prime ministers in Praha was couched in language that further expressed this fear.

2. The West German attitude toward this rearmament question is that the West should initially bolster the NATO countries and, when this is completed, the question of German rearmament discussed and perhaps implemented. They (and Dr. Hilger) feel that some sort of truce can be effected with the U.S.S.R. if such a course of action is followed. The German Republic feels that it will be a vanguard for the West, today, if they retreat and Russia takes positive military action.

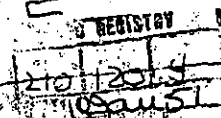
3. In answer to questions on this subject, Dr. Hilger did not feel that the NATO and West Germany should remain contentedly, but that the German proposal should be followed to prevent providing the U.S.S.R. into positive action.

4. Later, the speaker expressed his view that over the long course of events the U.S.S.R. would do everything possible to achieve her ends, but probably not resort to military action if it could be averted in any way.

5. Following this rather brief discourse on German rearmament, questions of a general nature were posed and covered the entire global picture. The only significant question asked to be that Dr. Hilger still believes Iran is next on the list of the U.S.S.R. His reasons stem from the Iranian

Internal situation

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EXEMPTIONS Section 3(b)

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internal situation which he believes is so corrupt in the royal circles that people would not be averse to the Turkish party assuming control. Further, he contends that the calm prevailing between the U.S.S.R. and Iran at present is in-
dication of Russia's impending action.

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